

# Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's

## *Chronological History*

### Part 3

Translated from Classical Armenian  
by Robert Bedrosian

Sources of the Armenian Tradition (Long Branch, N.J., 2018)

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[Translator's Preface](#)

*The following Table of Contents was created for the convenience of readers and is not part of the Armenian text.*

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# Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's

## *Chronological History*

### Translator's Preface

Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i was an Armenian archbishop, historian, educator, poet, and musician of the late 13th century. Biographical details are few for Mxit'ar (1222-1290? or 1230/35-1297/1300?) who became prominent in the last decade or so of his life. From 1278 he was the director of Ayrivank' (also called Geghard) Monastery. Probably between 1282 and 1285 he compiled his great *Char'e"ntir* [Collection of Sermons/Homilies] comprising teaching materials of different types, some of which are rare and important. He produced works about saint Alexius of Edessa and Rome (5th century) and the martyr Step'anos of Siwnik (8th century). During and before the 1280s he wrote the lyrics and music for some 20 hymns (*sharakans*) and canticles (*gandzk'*).

The Classical Armenian text of Mxit'ar's work was published twice in the 1860s: Mkrtich' Emin's *Mxit'aray Ayrivanets'woy Patmut'iwn hayots'* [*Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's History of the Armenians*] (Moscow, 1860), in 69 pages; and Kerovpe Patkanean's/Patkanov's *Mxit'aray Ayrivanets'wots' Patmut'iwn zhamanakagrakan* [*Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's Chronological History*] (Petersburg, 1867), in 92 pdf pages. Thus far, and in the absence of a critical edition, Patkanean's edition has been the preferred one. It is the text we made our translation from (Part 3, pp. 60-84). Unfortunately, we were unable to examine H. A. Hovhannisyan's edition of the 1860 text (Erevan, 1975). An invaluable resource for the study of Mxit'ar's work is Marie-Félicité Brosset's French translation of all three parts, with meticulous scholarly notes: *Histoire chronologie* (St. Petersburg, 1869), in 138 pdf pages. The Classical Armenian texts of Emin and Patkanean, as well as Brosset's French translation, appear as attachments to the pdf version of our English translation of Part 3. Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's *Chronological History*, and his spiritual works have been translated, in full or part, into Armenian, French, Georgian, and Russian.

The *Chronological History* probably appeared in 1289 or soon after. This work is divided into three parts.

**Part 1** begins with an introductory section (Patkanean edition, pp. 1-7), followed by a description of the six days of Creation (pp. 8-11); lists of Old Testament kings, patriarchs, priests, prophets, and judges (pp. 12-16); and a list of Jesus' forebears (pp. 16-17). These are followed by lists of Armenian princes, kings, the Armenian Arshakuni/Arsacid dynasty (pp. 17-18); kings of the Bagratid dynasty, princes of Cilicia (pp. 19-20); kings of the Franks; Armenian *kat'oghikoi* (pp. 20-21); princes, kings, and bishops of the Iberians/Georgians (pp. 22-23); kings of the Aghuans (pp. 23-24); Roman and Byzantine rulers (pp. 24-25); kings of the Arsacid and Sasanian

dynasties of Persia/Iran (pp. 25-26); tyrants of the Tachiks (Arabs), Saljuqs, Mongol khans (pp. 26-27); Christ's Apostles and Disciples (pp. 27-28); Patriarchs of Jerusalem, Antioch, Popes of Rome, Patriarchs of Alexandria, Ephesus, and Constantinople (pp. 29-32); Apocryphal books of the Hebrews (pp. 33); Sarkavag *vardapet's* list of New Testament writings (pp. 33-36); and a list of Armenian historians (p. 37) in supposed chronological order. These lists, accurate and inaccurate, reflect what an educated medieval Armenian cleric knew about the past of his own people and their historical setting.

### [ii]

**Part 2** returns to Old Testament figures, this time providing their regnal years or when they were active (pp. 38-43); early Armenian history is placed in this Old Testament chronological system with the story of Hayk and Bel (p. 44), and the Amazons (p. 45) mingled with the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and the Canaanites (pp. 46-50). Greek gods and historical figures appear (pp. 50-51), followed by more Old Testament figures, continuing to the birth of Jesus (pp. 51-57).

**Part 3**, by far the most interesting, opens with the author noting its difference from the preceding two sections (p. 58). Mxit'ar mentions that the earlier sections had been based on ample sources from which he selected what he considered relevant. As for the present section, it is something that he created himself, having Armenian historical sources as guides. Much of what Mxit'ar will relate can be traced to these extant sources. M-F. Brosset, in the notes to his French translation, does this detective work admirably. However, there is also some tantalizing material, which Mxit'ar has taken from sources which have not survived. Indeed, this is what makes Part 3 such a source of delight to philologists. After asking for God's assistance (pp. 58-59), Mxit'ar begins the most valuable part of his work, describing in abbreviated form, all the major historical and religious developments in Armenia, Cilicia, and lands where Armenians lived or states whose activities impacted them—from the late third century A.D. through the year 1289, where the *Chronology* ends.

Many of the entries are only a sentence or two in length, and it is clear from the almost telegraphic style, that the author assumed that the readers had access to more expansive works to flesh the entries out (especially Patriarch Michael the Great's *History*). Without heavy footnoting, much of the account would baffle the general reader. At times, one gets the feeling that this material originally may have been put together by Mxit'ar primarily as notes for himself. In any case, as Mxit'ar gets closer to his own period, the frequency of the entries increases. Mxit'ar's work is a chronology, not a literary history like the works of his contemporaries Kirakos Gandzakets'i, Vardan Arewelts'i, and Step'annos Orbelean. Nonetheless, though it lacks literary value, the book's contents and the format the author chose to present them make this a valuable source for various periods in Armenian history, most notably for the Mongol invasions and domination.

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The transliteration used here is a modification of the Library of Congress system for online Armenian, substituting **x** for the LOC's **kh**, for the thirteenth character of the Armenian alphabet



(խ). Otherwise we follow the LOC transliteration, which eliminates diacritical marks above or below a character, and substitutes single or double quotation marks to the character's right. In the LOC romanization, the seventh character of the alphabet (է) appears as **ե'**, the eighth (ը) as **ե''**, the twenty-eighth (ռ) as **ր'**, and the thirty-eighth (օ), as **օ'**.

Robert Bedrosian  
Long Branch, New Jersey, 2018

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## A Note on Pagination

The printed editions of these online texts show the page number at the top of the page. In the right margin the pagination of the Classical Armenian (*grabar*) text also is provided. We have made the following alterations for the online texts: the page number of the printed English editions (*Sources of the Armenian Tradition* series) appears in square brackets, in the text. For example [101] this text would be located on page 101, and [102] this text would be on page 102. The *grabar* pagination is as follows. This sentence corresponds to the information found on page 91 of the Classical Armenian text [g91] and what follows is on page 92. In other words, the Classical Armenian text delimiters [gnn] indicate **bottom** of page.

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# Mxit'ar Ayrivanets'i's

## *Chronological History*

### Part 3

...

The translation of pages 58, 59, and half of page 60 has been omitted.

...

[A.D. 287/291] Trdat ruled as king and tortured Saint Gregory for two years. He threw him into the pit for 13 years. He himself killed the blessed Hr'ip'simeans, 36 souls, and was struck by wrath descending upon him from the Lord, becoming a pig for 75 days. Then he was healed, spiritually and physically, by the hand of Saint Gregory, the son of Anak and Ogohi. The blessed Illuminator was ordained *kat'oghikos* of all the east and the north and he brought to Armenia the relics of John and Athanagines, his father-in-law. He placed them at Innakinean, giving [rule over] the place to Bishop Zenob. [Bishop Zenob] made the [historical work] *History of Taron*, while Agat'angeghos [wrote the History] of the Armenians.

Trdat and Saint Gregory went to Rome to visit, with 70,000 [troops]. The two kings made an oath between them, mixing into the ink [a portion of] the blood of Christ, so that they would not violate it. [The Byzantines] gave to the Armenians the left [hand] of Andrew and, in Jerusalem, the [church of] Saint James as a place of lodging, the side of the bed [tomb] and a lamp over the tomb of Christ [*end of grabar* (Classical Armenian) text page 60; henceforth shown as, for example, g60]. [Heavenly] light descends [there each year] at the request of the Illuminator. Now when Trdat returned to Armenia, he struck at the lasso-wielding Huns. He built [or, "built up"] the fortress and palace of Gar'ni; wrecked [the city of] Ecbatana, and built up Tabriz.

[A.D. 325] The Council of Nicaea [was held], [comprising] 318 patriarchs, who anathematized Arius. Discovery of the Cross in Jerusalem by Helene [Emperor Constantine's mother]. King Shapuh's persecution of the Church in the East. Shepherds buried Saint Gregory. Revelation of the holy Cross at Jerusalem in the days of Cyril.

Andre'as arranged a two-hundred-year cycle for the calendar. Xosrov built Dvin. Mose's and Daniel, along with 3,8750 souls, were martyred at Dizap'ayt. The reading of Artemon. Pap and At'anagine's, with their women and children, were drinking in the church, when fire descended on them from On High and engulfed them all.

[A.D. 366] Saint Nerse's arranged [the rankings of] 900 princes among the Armenians, as well as 400 bishops, and 2,000 monasteries. [In these times] there appeared troops of angels, moving through the sky. [In these time lived] the theologian Basil, [Gregory] the Nicaean. Epip'an, who revealed the sects up to [the time of] Christ, and from Christ to his own period.

[A.D. 381] The council of Constantinople [consisting] of 150 patriarchs, who anathematized Macedonius. In Antioch a child was born with a beard, with four feet, and four hands. The captivity of our people and [the seizure] of the bones of [our Armenian] kings.

[A.D. 402] Saint Sahak saw a vision of future times. In Emawus a child was born with two heads and four hands. It lived two years and then one died, followed by the other four days later. [In these days lived] [John] Chrysostom, who created 12,000 homilies in 800 books. Relics of the proto-martyr [Stephen] were discovered by the priest Ghunkianos. Euthalius [g61] of Alexandria created a list of the Apostles and their acts. The kings of the Byzantines and of the Persians divided our land between themselves.

## [2]

[A.D. 423] Beginning of Armenian letters for writing, by Saint Sahak and Mesrovp who, with 60 students, worked and translated all the Old and New Testaments. Mashtots' students were martyred at Astghablur.

[A.D. 431] The Council of Ephesus [comprised] of 200 bishops, who anathematized Nestorius. The blessed Marut'a built up Mufarghin and collected the remains of 285,000 saints.

[A.D. 449] The Council of Ephesus [was held] about Flavianus. Movse's, the historian of the Armenians. Saint Parsam, who did not sit down for 54 years.

The kingship of the Arsacids and the chief-priesthood in the line of Saint Gregory ended. The assumption of the relics of Chrysostom. The [remains of the] Ananians were discovered by Malxut'. Anatol built up the city of Karin by order of Theodosius the Younger.

[A.D. 451] The Council of Chalcedon [was held], comprising 636 bishops who anathematized Eutyches. Discovery of the head of the Precursor [John the Baptist/Karapet] at Emesia. Martyrdom of the blessed Vardaneans. Fires [burned] in Constantinople from sea to sea. For one month the air rained dust [which accumulated] to the depth of a span [*t'iz*; "palm"; about four inches/10.16 centimeters] and fire broke out in many places. A luminous cloud shaped like a trumpet (or, pipe) appeared for 40 days. Saint Shushanik was martyred and Andre'as took Nino's cross to Sper. King Vach'e' [king of the Aghuans] built (or, built up) [the city of] Partaw.

[A.D. 500] Gar'nik discovered the remains of Saint Gregory. Saint T'at'ul and Varos and T'ovmas. Pawi, *kat'oghikos* of the Persians. The loathsome Barsuma, who destroyed 7,700 clerics [g62]. Vaxt'ank, king of the Iberians/Georgians built up Tp'xis [Tiflis/Tbilisi]. The blessed Sime'on the stylite. In these times Vach'akan [king of the Aghuans] discovered relics of saints, and built 365 churches. The blessed Shup'haghisoy [archbishop of Barda/Partaw]. Eghishe' and Ghazar, the chroniclers. [The cities of] Nicopolis and Nicomedia were destroyed by earthquake. In these times [lived] Erits'ak [metropolitan of Siwnik']. Tear'nt'ag and Vasak and Vahan were martyred. Yakob of Sruj created 700 homilies.

[The Persian king] Kawat sacrificed 400 virgin maidens to his idol Ozi [Ormazd]. Fire fell upon Antioch which burned the royal court and was not extinguished for six days. Discovery of the relics of the apostle Thaddeus and of the virgin Sanduxt by Kirakos. Barsegh *chon*, during the time of Nerse's the Builder [Nerse's III, Tayets'i/Ishxan Ishxants'i, *Shinogh*, 641-661] who saw Christ seven times, redacted the collection of *sharakans* ("hymns") which was styled *chone*"ntir [after Barsegh *chon*]. A severe plague [occurred]. In Jerusalem, the water of Shiloah disappeared from 15 years. In Cilicia, a woman appeared who was a cubit taller than any man. She did not eat or speak, and received money from shops. She remained for a long time, then disappeared. The 200th year of Andreas [s calendar] was reached on March 25th and on April 4th they were unable to go to the beginning [of the cycle] since 9 additional days were [required] between them. So matters were confused and the wise men of the time established the Armenian Era of dating.

### [3]

[A.D. 552] Start of Armenian dating. At the command of *Kat'oghikos* Movse's [Movse's II Eghivardets'i, 574-604], At'anas Taronats'i at Glak monastery created an Armenian calendar. The Tachik [Muslim] Era began in 833 of the Syrians; 6289 of the Hebrews; 6004 of the Romans; 96 of the Egyptians; 10 of the Ethiopians and \_\_\_\_ of the Arabs; \_\_\_\_ of the Macedonians; and 60 of the Armenians [g63].

[The church of] Saint Sophia was built by Justinian. Yiztibuzit the martyr. A flood inundated Ur'ha [Edessa]. There were eight years of famine. Lord Abas, *kat'oghikos* of the Aghuans came from Darband to Partaw and established the [ecclesiastical] throne [there]. Eas of Alexandria, along with 36 other savants, established a cycle of 500 [532] years [for the calendar], which Irion had ruined. A horrendous earthquake [struck] all the lands; [there was] untimely death and lightning in the northern areas. Alas, for Antioch. The divine right [hand] of the Mother of God appeared in the blessed chapel on holy Zion, the Mother of God with Jesus in her arms. A wicked and bitter time. Five thousand Christian maidens willingly jumped into the At'l [Volga] River, since they were being taken [to be slaves] to the Qaqan. The people of Negrans (Nengrats'ik') were killed by Dorahar, the Jew [in A.D. 523]. The Armenian princes rebelled from the Persians, extending their hand to the Byzantines. The sun darkened for 18 months. Fifty Frank [Roman] kings ruled from Gaius to the last Justinus, while from Tiberius onward they were Romans [Byzantine Greeks].

[A.D. 571] Vardan Mamikonean killed the womanizing Xosrov *patrik* and they went off to Constantinople [where], with five *girs* of silver, he purchased the eastern gate of St. Sophia. *Vardapets* Grigor and Vrt'ane's went to Byzantium. Then there came to Armenia [two] skilled orators, who were Asorik' (Assyrians/Syriacs) [to preach Nestorianism]; however, both [of them] were unable to accomplish anything.

Smbat Bagratuni went to the Hyrcanians [on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea] which is Sagastan, and he found there Armenians who had forgotten the [Armenian] language. [Smbat] established a bishop [named] Habel for them.

Tiranun, *kat'oghikos* of the Aghuans, wrote a solution to 500 difficult questions.

[A.D. 601] Sabay sat as *kat'oghikos* of the Aghuans, without [endorsement from] the patriarch of Antioch [g64].

Half the sun was darkened for 10 months.

[A.D. 611] Muhammad appeared.

One hundred twenty thousand Jews went to him [Muhammad], taking along the Books of Genesis [*i.e.*, the *Pentateuch*].

The emperor Heraclius [Heraclius I, 610-641] wanted to fight with Muhammad. Then a man came to him [Heraclius], bringing to him the writings of Hemindros and Jemindros [? Hermes Trismegistos] wherein it was written that a rule of 240 years had been given to them.

[The city of] Archesh was taken by the Tachiks.

[A.D. 615; A.E. 74 (A.D. 625)] The Iberians/Georgians withdrew from [confessional] unity with the Armenians.

Severe famine and [death from] the sword among the Aghuans.

Lord Viroy was *kat'oghikos* [of the Aghuans].

Lord Komitas enlarged the martyrium of Saint Hr'ip'sime'.

[A.E. 88 (A.D. 639)] Lord Ezr enlarged the martyrium of Saint Gayane'.

#### [4]

Entry of the Tachiks among the Armenians.

The [ecclesiastical] council in the city of Karin [A.D. 629] and [*Kat'oghikos*] Ezr's acquiescence [with the Byzantine formulation].

Severe famine and destructive winds throughout all countries.

The kings of the [Sasanid] Persians came to an end. They had ruled for 418 years, having 24 kings, the last being Yazkert [A.D. 637; A.E. 100 (A.D. 651)].

The Tachiks achieved supreme authority. The Tachiks took Duin and killed 1,200 [people] in [the church of] Saint Sargis. War over paintings [images/icons] in the Church, which Yovhan Mayravanets'i resolved.

[A.D. 641] [*Kat'oghikos*] Nerse's the Builder [641-661] constructed [the church of] Saint Grigor on the Rock, which astounded everyone. The Tachiks later destroyed it.

The Cross of Varag was discovered by T'odik [A.D. 664; A.E. 113 (A.D. 664)].

Philo of Thrace.

Jacob of Edessa [Yakob Ur'hayets'i] made a new translation [g65].

The Huns [of the North Caucasus] believed in God through [the efforts of bishop] Israel.

*Vardapet* Anania created an immovable calendar.

Prince Grigor built [a] church at Aruch and Lord Nerse's [built a church] at Baguan.

A severe wind arose from the North, [which] demolished many churches and overturned forests.

[A.E. 130 (A.D. 681)] A comet appeared [being] a sign of [impending] famine, the sword, and great turbulence.

[A.D. 690] Lorg Grigore's, bishop of Arsharunik', made a [book of] interpretive readings, at the request of Nerse'h Kamsarakan.

The Tachiks removed images from the *dahekan* and stamped [the coin] with writing [instead].

Arch'il and Mihr, kings of the Iberian/Georgians, struck at [the Arab commander] Mruan close to Anakob fortress. The river of seven sources carried away [the bodies of] 23,000 Tachik men and 35,000 horses, from which they called it *Habashis-tsghal* and *Ts'xe'nis-tsghal* [River of Abyssinians, River of the Horse].

[A.D. 696; A.E. 150 (A.D. 701)] Father Soghomon made a *To'nakan* [Book of Feast-days] at Makeni [Mak'enots' Vank']. The Sea of Xlat' [Lake Van] froze over. They burned the monastery of Saint Grigor.

[The emir] Mahme't took Sewan.

Ashot built [the church of] the Holy Savior in Daro'nk.

[A.D. 704; A.E. 160 (A.D. 711)] The emir Kams [or, Kassim] immolated 800 Armenian princes in Naxijawan, and 400 in Xram.

## [5]

Abdlaziz [re]built Duin. Suliman demolished Darband and then rebuilt it. [A.E. 170 (A.D. 721)] Hert' came to Armenia at the order of Heshm of Syria, and made a census.

Severe famine and the destruction of images in the Church.

Death of Ashot and the [mass] slaughter of swine.

Yezid made a law that the Tachiks could not drink wine.

[A.D. 719] Yovhan O'dznets'i convened a council at Manazkert [g66] and removed the Byzantines and their Armenians from Armenia. Severe famine, and Baban burned down the convent of Mak'enats'ots'.

A flood destroyed Ur'hay.

Pestilence.

Vayots' Dzor was flooded.

[A.E. 194 (A.D. 745)] Through the power of the Cross of Christ, 500,000 Tachiks were drowned at Constantinople and [the defeated general] Mslim was freed by [Emperor] Leo, to relate the glory of Christ.

[A.D. 737] The martyrdom of Vahan of Goght'n.

[The caliph] Jap'r [al-Mansur, 754-775] built the city of Baghdad on the Tigris River.

[A.E. 200 (A.D. 751)] A frightful earthquake [occurred] which demolished the village at the foot of Mt. Tabor, and many cities, villages, and districts [also] were destroyed. Two new comets appeared: one in the East, and the other, in the West. For two months dust filled the air [and accumulated] to a depth of a palm. There were great flashings of the stars and a severe earthquake.

[A.D. 758] For three years Abdullah forcibly demanded taxes from living people for the deceased, and gold and silver were [thereby] exhausted throughout the entire land.

[A.E. 210 (A.D. 761)] Eight dead people suddenly came to life [but] were unable to say anything.

Many locusts arrived and there also was hail, with one [hailstone weighing] 5 *litr*, and many structures collapsed.

Monkeys became enraged and wrought much damage.

A woman appeared in Bukhara who, from the time of her birth, had neither milk [to drink] nor any other kind of food.

[A.E. 220 (A.D. 771)] [Prominent in this period were] the sagacious *vardapets* Step'anos Siwnets'i, Lord Ep'rem, Anastas, Xach'ik, and Dawit'.

The Tachiks destroyed K'aghina, T'alín, and Areni, and they took captives. They killed Mushegh, Samue'l, and others of the *azatagund Hayots'* on Easter [g67].

Severe warfare between the Zoroastrians (*mogk'*) and the Tachiks.

[6]

[A.E. 230 (A.D. 781)] [Emperor] Leo [Leo IV, the Khazar, 750-775; 775-780] sent to [Caliph] Mahadi [al-Mahdi, 775-780] the writings of Yane's and Yambre's [Ianes and Amres].

There was found at Ur'ha [Edessa] a casket of a Jew with writing on it a thousand years' old, which said: "I believe that Christ shall be born from a virgin and that his light shall shine upon me." Similarly, in Constantinople a marble casket was found which had this written on it: "What use is it to cover me up, since in the days of Constantine and his mother, Helen, the sun will shine on me."

[A.E. 240 (A.D. 791)] The priest Pandaleon found the history of the finger of Peter the Apostle.

Sahak and Yovse'p' were martyred in the city of Karin, in the year 6000 from Adam[<sup>s</sup> expulsion from the Garden of Eden], 802 from Jesus Christ, and 249 of the Armenian Era [A.D. 800/801].

The monk Makar converted the emir.

[A.E. 250 (A.D. 801)] An epidemic among the sheep, and severe and generalized famine. In one day in the city of Karin, 3,000 souls perished.

The enemy came to [Constantinople's] Golden Gate, and took many cities.

Ibrahim reigned in Baghdad.

They discovered many idol-worshippers in Harran.

An enormous earthquake [caused] the Koghat Mountains [on either bank of the Euphrates River] to collapse into one [heap], which blocked the Euphrates River for one day.

Epikur'ay tried to turn Prince Ashot into a Chalcedonian. However, *vardapet* Bure't sent his deacon Nana, who triumphed over Epikur'ay and interpreted [correctly] the Gospel of John.

Emir Spk'i [or, Sbuk] robbed the Armenian monasteries and all the churches and sent the gold and silver to Baghdad [g68].

[A.E. 270 (A.D. 821)] Smbat Ablabas, founder of the heresy of the T'ondrakians.

In the period of [the *kat'oghikos* Lord Dawit', a priest [named] P'arsman of Kakaz split from the [confession of the] Armenians and converted to the Georgian [confession] the Tsonde'ats'ik', that is the Tsad-s, who now are Roman [*i.e.*, Chalcedonian in confession}.

The Adriatic Sea threw up [a fish] with a length and breadth of 40 *girk*.

[A.E. 280 (A.D. 831)] Apusahl took Amoria where there were a thousand monasteries of virgins, whom he gave over to his troops.

Mahadi came to Armenia and reigned. However, Prince Sahak struck and killed him with his troops, also [killing] the Tachik general, Hasan.

[7]

There was rain for 40 days and a dragon-fish (*vishapadzuk*) emerged from the Caspian Sea and devoured all the fish in the Kura River.

The Tachik Dawut', son of Apusahl, made a law that Christians may not exhume the dead, carry crosses, or sound the hours, or raise pigs.

In this period [*ast*, "here"] there appeared T'amam, the false holy man (*r'asuln*) and [there also appeared] locusts the size of swallows, which came from the Khazars.



[A.E. 290 (A.D. 841)] Nsr and Papak' became Christians.

Gurgi, son of King Zak'aria [of Nubia] went to Baghdad in an astounding manner.

The people of Sasun killed Abuse't'.

Fire [in the sky] appeared for three nights.

There was [a destructive] rainfall which was accompanied by rocks, that scored the bark on trees.

Emir Sajar took Mts'xet'a and destroyed the Cross of Nino.

[A.E. 300 (A.D. 851)] Shapuh Artsruni was martyred in Baghdad.

Bugha seized all the princes and *azats* [gentry] of the Armenians and killed them—half physically and half spiritually [through conversion to Islam] [g69].

[A.D. 854] On one and the same day, *Kat'oghikos* Zak'aria received [the offices of] deacon, priest, bishop, and *kat'oghikos*.

The [altar] curtain was removed in Byzantine churches, since in Constantinople four bishops [had been discovered] practising witchcraft and idol-worship, and conducting a false mass [concealed by the altar curtain].

During Lent an earthquake occurred at Duin in which 12,000 people perished in a single night.

Emperor Basil [Basil I, 866-867; 867-886] sent to Prince Ashot a fragment of the Lord's Cross, and a letter from Patriarch Photius.

[A.E. 320 (A.D. 871)] Yise', son of Shekh, gave to *Kat'oghikos* Zak'aria a banner with a cross.

Nikit brought to the Armenians the blessed symbol of Hr'omayri and the story of the demoniacs who had been cured by Saint Gregory.

Hamam, who is Yovhanne's Bagratuni, interpreted [the book of] Proverbs and put titles [or, a table of contents] at the beginning of Psalms.

[A.E. 334 (A.D. 885)] Ashot Bagratuni reigned as king over the Armenians, 434 years after the end of the Arsacid kingdom.

In this period [lived] Father Gagik, Father Aharon, and Lord Mashtots', who ate no bread for 40 years.

[8]

Shapuh Bagratuni, the historian [lived in this period].

[A.E. 350 (A.D. 901)] *Kat'oghikos* Lord Yovhanne's, the historian [lived in this period].

The sway of the Tachiks was ended and the Turk'man Saljuqs (*Salch'uk's*) became powerful [1860 edition: "and the Turkmans Saljuq, Muse' P'aghoyn and Do'ghat be'k grew strong]. Fifty men, princes from Sasun, who had been harassed by the Turks, went to Cilicia and, by [the aid of] God, gradually ruled [there].

In Thrace, a severe earthquake took place, which rent the earth and toppled many churches.

The T'at'ars left Qaraqorum (Gharaghum). It is said that their guide, until they reached the Aral (Araz), was a white dog which barked at those straying and turned them back [to the correct road] [g70].

[A.E. 362 (A.D. 913)] King Smbat, the World-Conqueror, built [or, built up] the city Ani, [a word] which translates "with care/concern/worry" (*xnamb*). He seized the Sultan and had the Tachiks wear braids, like women. He also seized Demetr, king of the Iberians/Georgians and tattooed the hands/palms of many Iberians/Georgians, from which they were styled Ap'xazk' ("tattooed palms"). This [king] was crucified by the loathsome Yusup' in Duin. And thus was fulfilled the prophecy of Movse's Xorenats'i, which said, "You Bagratids shall reign in Duin."

After him, Gagik Artsruni ruled—he who built a city on the island of Aght'amar [in Lake Van].

[A.E. 370 (A.D. 921)] Ashot the Iron reigned.

The princes Dawit' and Gurge'n were martyred in Duin. King Abas built a cathedral at Kars [A.E. 380 (A.D. 931)], and the monasteries of Karme'njadzor, Kaputk'ar, Dpravank' and Hor'omos. He defeated [the Abkhaz] Be'r in Kars, made a cup from his skull, and drank wine from it.

The *kat'oghikos* Lord Anania excommunicated the bishop of Siwnik' [who] later was designated as archbishop.

Xosrov Andzewats'eats' composed a commentary on the *Prayerbook* (*Agho't'amatuts'*), which his son, Sahak, wrote down.

[A.E. 417 (A.D. 968)] Haghpats and Sanahin [monasteries] were built [or, built up] by Queen Xosrovanoysh.

[A.E. 430 (A.D. 981)] At this time the Bagratids began to rule as kings over the Iberians/Georgians. For Gurge'n ruled among the Iberians/Georgians, while his brother, Smbat, ruled over the Armenians. The latter fortified the wall at Ani and laid the foundation of the great cathedral [there].

Prince Vahram built Marmashe'n.

[In this period lived] Movse's Kaghankatuats'i, historian of the Aghuans, and Grigor Narekats'i and the historian Uxtane's [g71].

The *curopalate* Dawit' took Mantskert, and Gabriele'l, son of Ch'o'pndar, struck at Mamlan in Apahunik'.

[A.E. 450 (A.D. 1001)] The matchless [church of] Saint Gregory was built in Ani—it now is a ruin. [The monastery of] Hawuts' t'ar' was built by Prince Ge'org of K'egh(?i).

[In this period lived] the historians Step'annos Asoghik and Aristake's Lastivertts'i; while Samue'l, abbot (*hayr*, "father") of Karmnjadzor, created a *Book of Feast-Days* (*to'nats'uts'ak*), and the blessed father, *vardapet* Atom, arranged the *Hr'omagir* [*Book of Greek Writings*]. Father Sime'on composed an *Adam Book* with 111 homilies, at the request of King Senek'erim of Vaspurakan.

[9]

*Vardapet* Timot' made a commentary on Creation.

Queen Katramite' finished the cathedral at Ani.

Smbat Magistros built [the convent of] Bk'nayr.

[A.E. 460 (A.D. 1011)] A severe earthquake in the foreday. All of Eznka was buried. Only the home of the merciful Kirakos remained [standing]. Many churches and fortresses collapsed.

Fire fell on Antioch and burned the Church of the Evangelist Luke.

Sultan Tughril's *spasalar* ("general") K'risari took [territory] from Aleppo and Damascus to Chalcedon and Trapizon.

Ibn Xosrov, king of the Persians, astonished the land with his wisdom. He was philo-Christian and a lover of [religious] feasts. He came to rule over the Armenians and subdued the Georgians [g72].

In Trapizon on the day of the Epiphany, Lord Petros, the *kat'oghikos*, officiated. It was he who built Surmari and Tsar'ak'ar.

Ve'st Sargis, builder of fortresses and monasteries [lived in this period].

[A.E. 477 (A.D. 1028)] In the evening of October 3rd, the heavens were torn asunder from side to side, the abyss screamed, and Satan was released from the constraints [established] by the baptism of Christ.

[A.E. 480 (A.D. 1031)] The sun eclipsed at noon on a Friday, the 13th of [the Armenian month of] *k'aghots'*. And Satan was released from the constraints [placed on him] by the crucifixion of Christ.

Prince Apirat 12,000 cavalry...He built Kech'ar'u and dug a canal in Erevan.

The wife of Michael [Michael IV, the Paphlagonian, 1034-1041] blinded Emperor Calfat [Michael V, the Calfat, 1041-1042], and a gem was found with writing on it that said: "The emperor will be blinded here."

[A.E. 490 (A.D. 1041)] Suliman ruled over the Armenians and Byzantines. He turned [the church of] Saint Peter at Antioch into a mosque. This was the start of the rule of the house of Danishman in Cappadocia.

[A.E. 493 (A.D. 1045)] [Emperor] Monomachus [Constantine IX, Monomachus, 1042-1055] ended the kingdom of the Bagratids which, through 10 kings, had ruled for 160 years. Similarly, he removed from our land the *kat'oghikos*, Lord Petros, and seated him in Sebastia. Thereafter [this] *katoghikos* never again came [back] to us. From the line of the Bagratids there remained those in Georgia and in Matsnaberd and Norberd, who held many districts and built many fortresses. Now Monomachus, who had seized King Gagik, gave his authority (*ishxanut'iwn*) to Grigor Magistros, who built the church at Kech'ar'u. He was [g73] the son of Holum-Vasak, builder of Bjni, Kayen, and Kaytson, who was killed by an unknown person at Serkele'.

At this time the Rubenids came to rule in Cilicia. God gave this [area] to those [Armenians] who had been deprived [of their native territories]. For the Byzantines had ended our kingdom while God [in exchange] gave their [Cilician] lands to the Armenians. Currently they are ruling there as kings.

## [10]

[A.E. 500 (A.D. 1051)] *Vardapet* Yovhanne's Taronats'i composed a history of the Bagratids by order of Lord Petros.

Bagarat, king of the Georgians, took Tiflis from Jap'r with the aid of Gagik, king of Kakhetia. He was the son of King Yovhanne's.

[A.E. 510 (A.D. 1061)] In the city of Karin, the tyrant Ali Armeni Aslan killed people from sunrise until sunset, at which time he went to bed with a virgin.

The Huns destroyed the plain of Gandzak, and Alp-Arslan enslaved and destroyed Ani. The blessed father Vardik came from Sper to King Gagik of Vanand. He built Vankoys and saw Christ in the guise of a pain-ridden old man. This Gagik gave Kars to the Byzantines and received [in exchange] Tsame"ndaw. It was there that *Vkayase'r* was ordained *kat'oghikos* [A.E. 520 (A.D. 1071)] [Grigor II *Vkayase'r* [Martyrophile], 1066-1105].

The Tachiks removed an eye of Saint Giles (Znjil), which he took to Rome and displayed to the kings [of Europe]. [As a result,] seven counts assembled [their forces], came, and struck at the Tachiks. [They were] Mamun, Bohemond, Godfrey, and Tancred; and [the Europeans] ruled [there] for 200 years, until [the time of] Saladin.

[A.E. 530 (A.D. 1081)] The Turks and the Tachiks united and put as their ethnarch (*azgapet*) in Baghdad, [a figure] they called the Caliph, [chosen] from the descendants of Muhammad.

Prince Godfrey came from Rome to Jerusalem with 30 cavalrymen, and donned clerical dress [g74]. Subsequently, at the urging of the patriarch of Jerusalem, he donned armor and fought against the impious. This was the beginning of the blessed group of Franks who were called Brothers.

Armenian princes grew strong in Cilicia and took [the cities of] Xawatane'k', Marash, and Be'he'sni.

*Gogh* Vasil [Basil the Thief] took K'es'on and R'aban.

Kiwrike' [a] king of the Armenians, Demetre', king of the Georgians, and Lord Basil, *kat'oghikos* of the Armenians went to Sultan Malik-Shah and returned with honor.

King Dawit', son of Kiwrike', built Lo'r'i and 12 other fortresses. Moreover, Kiwrike', son of Dawit', had Yovsep', *kat'oghikos* of the Aghuans, ordain Lord Barsegh [as *kat'oghikos* in Ani] and his court priest Sargis [was] ordained as bishop of Haghbat. Thereafter this was [considered] a see. As for the see at Bjni, it had been established previously by Lord Petros. [?]

[A.E. 534 (A.D. 1085)] This [year] was the beginning of the new dating system which was arranged by *vardapet* Yovhanne's from Haghbat, he who is called *Sarkawag*. He made an immovable calendar according to [the schema used by] other nations. There was a war between the birds in the Amida country, between cranes and storks. They sent emissaries back and forth and then, later, they fought. The storks were vanquished. The king of the Pechenegs (Pitsenek-s) came against [the Byzantine emperor] Alexius [Alexius I, Comnenus, 1081-1118] with 600,000 [troops]. The Christians prayed for eight days and then destroyed them.

## [11]

Emir Suk'man made the bishop of Kars apostasize [g75], since he demanded an impossible amount of gold. He impoverished the land of the Armenians with endless taxation. [A.E. 544 (A.D. 1094)] Beginning of the 500-year cycle. Severe famine and tax collection among the Armenians.

Emir Fadlun sent Vasak Pahlawuni, son of Grigor Magistros, against Baghaberd with many troops. Through deception they killed King Senek'arim the Armenian, and took the Siwnik' country. And that was the start of the rule of Tachiks over them. A countless mass of Franks came to the East, to aid the Christians, while the godless [Byzantine emperor] Alexius betrayed many of them.

Ten peoples celebrated Easter on the wrong day, thanks to Irion's error [with the calendar].

A comet, shaped like a spear, was visible for many days.

[A.E. 550 (A.D. 1101)] Vasil and other princes of Cilicia brought the *kat'oghikos* Lord Grigor to themselves, with much supplication.

On Easter Eve, the lamps at Jerusalem did not [spontaneously] ignite, since the Franks had allowed women as officiants.

Xzil took Lo'r'i, and burned Haghbat and Sanahin.

T'oros took Amuda and began to grow powerful.

An earthquake hit Khorasan, which swallowed up a mosque and 60,000 men and women.

[In this period lived] Markos the hermit on Konkr'nat Mountain. He ate no bread for 68 years. He said that evils would increase among humanity all over the earth; the doors of the churches would be wrecked and closed; and that the Turks again would capture Jerusalem—as in fact happened. A Roman monk misled 10,000 folk with [a] heresy [*mignapasht* ?] [g76].

[A.E. 560 (A.D. 1111)] On a dark night in wintertime there was severe lightning, and fire fell into the Sea of Xlat' [Lake Van]. All the fish died, the sea[-level] fell and [parts of the lake] dried up and [the color of the water] turned to blood[-red].

Xe"zl was slain and Manuch'e', the emir of Ani, died.

The sons of King Kiwrike' were deprived of their patrimony.

There died *Vardapet* Sarkawag and *vardapet* Ge'org Meghrik, who established the regime at Drazark, and *vardapet* Dawit' son of Alawk, who explained the Canons.

The kingdom of the Turks was in commotion in Khorasan and the Tachiks again grew powerful.

During summertime red snow fell three to four fingers deep.

Rain fell in Palestine and [mixed] in it were drops of blood, and the morning dew was blood.

## [12]

[A.E. 570 (A.D. 1121)] Dawit', king of the Georgians, struck at E'lghazi and Me'lik', and took [the fortresses of] Gag, Te'runakan, and the city of Ani.

The sultans of Khorasan were called *Atabeks*, from E'ltkuz on.

The Fatimids (Abdlmumnik') were from the line of 'Ali. They had gone to the West as fugitives from their brother. [The fugitives'] names were Abdllay and Mamunay. They had taken along with them two books, *Semiayn* and *K'emiayn*, and came to rule in the West through [magic] talismans and through gold.

Aplswar brought from Xlat' a golden horseshoe [crescent], and put it on top of the cathedral at Ani. Now the citizens brought Dawit', king of the Georgians, and opened the gates of the city to him. [Dawit'] seized Aplswar and sent him and his son to Suanetia. He pulled down the horseshoe from the church and erected a cross there [g77].

[A.D. 1131] P'atlun, son of Aplsuar, came and took Ani again.

Severe famine and the merciless sword.

[A.E. 580 (A.D. 1131)] Masut, sultan of Iconium/Konya entered Cilicia and God struck him with gnats. Prince Bohemond was called king of Antioch (Andak').

King Demetre' struck at *atabek* Gharase"nt'ur [Qara Songur] at Norberd.

Apule't' captured Dmanis and Xunan.

[In this period lived] Petros, son of Xondik, and the marvellous Yakob. The virgins Xorasu and Mariam lived [in the convent] at K'obayri.

The Shah-Armen (Shahrimann) took Xlat'. [Emperor] Manuel [Manuel I, 1143-1180] covered Kilij-Arslan with gold [as a reward].

The Tachiks divided [their religion] into two, the Shiites and the Sunnis.

Baldwin, the king of Jerusalem, struck at Abas, the sultan of Egypt and took all the treasure of the House of 'Ali.

Sheragaw destroyed the Caliphate in Egypt.

[A.E. 590 (A.D. 1141)] A strong earthquake in Gandzak.

Ch'awlch'atar took the fortress of Xach'en through deception.

Saladin, from Duin, ruled over Egypt and legislated that Christians must always wear a [distinguishing] belt.

A star, shaped like a scepter, was visible for 10 days.

[A.E. 600 (A.D. 1151)] Again the Franks, myriad upon myriad, came via Thrace to the aid of the Christians. As for Emperor Manuel, he betrayed them just as Alexius had done, and they did not succeed.

Lord Grigoris took Hr'omklay and placed his [ecclesiastical] throne there [g78].

### [13]

[Emir] E'ltkuz took Amuk from Xaltenik, and Sasun from Vige'n.

Yakob, son of Saliba, made a commentary on the entire Old and New Testaments.

Deme'tre' seized Salt'ux at the gates of Ani, while Demetre's son, Dawit', struck at Melik'-Sultan and took Tiflis.

[A.E. 610 (A.D. 1161)] King Ge'orgi took Duin.

An earthquake hit Erznka.

The *kat'oghikos*, Lord Nerse's [Nerses IV Klayets'i (*Shnorhali*), 1166-1173], illuminated the land with all sorts of virtue and learning.

On [the feast-day of] the Holy Cross, snow fell [to a depth of] 25 palms, while it was 14 palms in India. And fish, birds, and all types of animals perished.

Caliph Musti [? al-Mustadi, 1170-1180] issued an order that churches [could] be built in all countries.

[A.D. 1181] Saladin took Jerusalem.

King Ge'orgi eliminated robbers and thieves.

Lord Grigor built the church at Hr'omklay.

[In this period lived] Nerse's Lambronats'i, invincible *vardapet* and translator of literature.

Yordanan the Tachik was martyred in the city of Karin.

They crucified Sargis of Xach'en in Gandzak.

Queen T'amar [of Georgia] exalted Zak'aria, Yovhanne's, and also Iwane'.

Step'annos *vardapet* at Karmir vank'.

*Vardapet* Ignatios, who interpreted the Gospel of Luke in Shap'ir.

*Vardapet* Sargis, who interpreted the Catholic [? Letters *zKat'ughike'sn*] at K'arashit'aw [g79].

The pope of Rome [Lucius III, 1181-1185] sent to Lord Grigor, *kat'oghikos* of the Armenians, his own cape and tiara.

The king of the Germans [Frederick Barbarossa] drowned in the river at Patar'his.

The priest Mxit'ar of Ani translated [a work about] the eclipses of the sun and the moon from the Persian [work known as] *Ochie'*.

Elghazi captured Jerusalem and [one of his] arrows hit and stuck in the ceiling of [the Church of] the Resurrection.

[A.E. 640 (A.D. 1191)] With the aid of God, Zak'are' and Iwane' took the lands of the Tachiks, one after the next, from Kayen to Baghaberd, and from Samshoyte' to Vagharshakert. In these times Lewon ruled as king in Cilicia. There was [convened] an assembly in Lo'r'i regarding [use of a portable] tent [for worship] during battle, and they did not agree.

## [14]

They assembled again at Ani, and again went their ways.

[A.D. 1201] Vasak, son of Haghbak, and his three sons—Papak', Mkde'm, and brave Prosh, who came from Xach'e'n, displayed many acts of valor [fighting] the foreigners and did great and good things for the Christian peoples.

T'amar died and her son, Lasha, reigned. He raided Arch'e'sh, as far as Varag; while in the Persian area [he raided] as far as Reh. They designated Xamshi vank' as the see of the Aghuan



*kat'oghikoi.*

They captured Iwane' at Xlat', and released him with a treaty of peace.

[A.E. 660 (A.D. 1211)] Me'lik' Awat' died, and Ashrap' succeeded.

Zak'are' died and Shahnshah succeeded.

A spear-shaped star appeared. The Tatar *noyins* Jap'ay and Sap'atay struck Lasha at Kotma[n].

[In these times lived] the wondrous man, Step'annos the priest, son of Lord [g80] Yusik, and the priest Astuatsatur, son of Eghbayrik, who resurrected [a] dead man.

[A.E. 670 (A.D. 1221)] The Qipchaqs struck at Lasha in Gandzak.

Vasak, the prince of princes, passed to Christ, and his son, the valiant Pr'o'sh, took his banner.

Jalaladin, the sultan of Khorasan [? or Khwarezm], came [to these parts] as a fugitive from the Tatars. He struck at Lasha and Iwane' in Kotayk', and, in the valley of Gar'ni, caused them to go over a cliff.

Pr'o'sh entered Duin and destroyed the Khwarezmians and Tachiks.

Ch'ankz-Khan killed Alt'an-Khan and ruled the *ulus* himself, placing the *ordu* at Ghat'.

[The] Khwarezmian [Jalal ad-Din Mankobirdi] took Xlat' and many lands.

[A.D. 1231] Rusudan reigned in Georgia. Now Okodai-Khan divided his troops into three fronts [for conquering] the south, north, and middle parts of the world, with an incalculable multitude. The southern [detachment] captured all of India and the coastal areas as far as the fish-eating Ethiopians. The northern [detachment] went via the upper areas of the Caspian Sea, crushing many lands, and crossed the Danube River. The emperor of the Germans went before them and forced [the detachment] to retreat. Troops of the middle [detachment] struck [the following peoples and lands] with their swords: the Parthians, Vrkans, Kushans, Elamites—who now are called Mlhut [Assassins]—Khorasan, Pars, Mars, Aspahan, and Atrpatakan. Conquering them one by one, they came to Armenia, Georgia, and Aghuania and, in the course of a single year [1236], generally took and destroyed the lands, fortresses, and cities.

The king [of the Georgians] hid and the princes of the land fled. Subsequently, Awag descended from [his place of refuge in] Kayen, went to Ch'armaghan, and made peace. When [the Mongols] saw [g81] the lands of the Armenians and Aghuans, they were pleased with them as a place of rest. They spent the summertime on the Armenian mountains and the wintertime in the rich and fertile plain of Aran, which is called Mughan.

[15]

[A.E. 690 (A.D. 1241)] The Tatars struck the sultan of Rum, Asuch'man [? Ghiyath ad-Din] and captured [territory] as far as Caesarea, and later, as far as Antalia, and they ruined Samts'xe'. T'enaln and Zekan once more looted the animals of the land.

*Vardapet* Yuse'p' built the tomb of Apostle Thaddeus. In Goght'n, a *dev* in the form of a woman served as a man's wife for many days.

On the Feast of the Cross a hail of fish fell.

Dawit' the deceiver [lived in this time], at Tsar.

[A.E. 700 (A.D. 1251)] Mongke-Khan was World-Conqueror. Het'um, king of the Armenians, and his brother, Smbat [the] Constable, went to him and were honored by him.

Locusts came and did some damage.

Arghun made a census [of the lands] from the East to the West.

Eznka was destroyed in an earthquake.

Hulegu-Khan came to this land and took the city of Baghdad.

Batu, khan of the North, died and his Christian son, Sartakh, succeeded.

The two Georgian kings [who both were named] Dawit', fled to Sone't'. Meanwhile, [the Mongols] took all the princes and gentry as hostages to the *Urdu* and designated them as *keshik't'ank*. They pulled down all the fortresses and all the secure churches of the Armenians, Georgians, and Aghuans [g82], under the direction of the Tachik Xoch'a aziz. Once more they took Mup'argin and Alamut and all the midlands as far as Jerusalem.

[A.E. 710 (A.D. 1261)] Arghun wrecked Georgia (Vrats'tun). They [the Mongols] killed Jalal and Zak'are'.

In Jordan, P'anduxtar [al-Malik Rukn-ad-Din Bibars Bunduqdar, or Baibars], sultan of Egypt, struck at K'it'bugha, the lieutenant of the Tatars.

Hulegu destroyed all the *jatans* who were sonless.

## [16]

A spear-shaped star appeared for four months. The Egyptians [Mamluks] struck at the Armenians' troops, killing T'oros and taking captive Lewon, the son of King Het'um—whom they later released.

The Egyptians took and destroyed Antioch of the Syrians.

In the khanate of Abagha and in the *kat'oghikosate* of Lord Yakob [Hakob I Klayets'i, 1268-1286], they held an assembly at Haghbat and Dzagavank'.

In Khorasan a hail of snakes fell for two days. [Those that fell] on the second day devoured [those that fell] on the first day.

[The Mongol rebel] Tegudar (Dakut'ar) fled to Sone't'.

A great earthquake occurred in Cilicia. [Also] the cities of Nushawor and T'avre'zh were destroyed.

Again Arghun made a census of the lands.

An earthquake took place in Georgia (Vrats'tun) which did much damage.

Again the Egyptians entered Cilicia.

An earthquake occurred in Xlat' and all its borders.

[A.E. 730 (A.D. 1281)] Manku-Timur (T'amur) and Alp'i [al-Mansur Saif-al-Din Kalawun al-Alfi, 1279-1290 (Alfi)] the Egyptian, fought each other at Hama.

The World-Building princes Pr'o'sh *haykazn* and Sadun Ardzruni were translated to Christ [g83].

Arghun killed Ahmat and then he himself reigned as khan. Lord Komitas [? Kostandin II Katukets'i, 1286-1289] was *kat'oghikos*.

Arghun destroyed the Julalayk' and many other *noyins* because of rebellion. Among [the slain] was the innocent Demetre', king of the Georgians.

[A.E. 738 (A.D. 1289)] The king of the Armenians, Lewon, died and his son, Het'um, reigned.

There was a great shortage of victuals for people and livestock [g84].

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